



September 2009

For many of us, Labor Day marks the unofficial end of summer, and the long weekend provides the opportunity to get in that last bit of summer fun before fall and winter. For Soldiers and their Families, the holiday weekend is usually a welcomed break in a demanding training cycle and often affords an ideal chance to visit Family and friends. But like any holiday weekend, celebrations can easily be marred by tragedy when safety is disregarded and composite risk management isn't incorporated into every facet of your activities.

Whether you're making the trip home, heading to the beach or local lake, planning that last big barbeque with friends and Family or taking out your motorcycle for one last long haul, what you don't want to do is mark the end of summer with a preventable accident.

As you head down America's roadways, I ask each of you to use the TRiPS online assessment tool. This tool helps you identify the risks associated with your travel plans and provides sound recommendations to make your journey successful. If you are traveling on your motorcycle, use common sense, wear your PPE and travel at safe speeds. Think about how your loss or injury would affect your Family and unit.

Leaders, I ask each of you to engage your Soldiers and talk with them about their weekend plans. Earlier this summer, the Army experienced its first fatality-free Memorial Day and Fourth of July weekends in more than 10 years. This success cannot happen without Leaders paying close attention to the activities their Soldiers are involved in and Soldiers taking responsibility for their own safety and doing the right thing.

Removing risk does not equate to removing the fun. It simply means paying close attention to the safety aspects of your off-duty activities and exercising good judgment. The USACR/Safety Center stands ready to assist Leaders, Soldiers, civilians and Families with valuable risk mitigation information to help prepare for any off-duty, recreational activities. An extensive collection of tools, resources and safety tips can be found on the Safety Center's Web site at <https://safety.army.mil> and clicking on the bottom left Safe Summer 2009 icon.

Thank you for all your efforts this summer and your continued help in protecting our most vital resource, our Soldiers, both on and off duty, in combat and back home. We are a "Band of Brothers and Sisters" and, together, we can drive down accidental losses.

**Army Safe is Army Strong!**

WILLIAM T. WOLF  
Brigadier General, USA  
Commanding